



October 26, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

The upcoming 2011 session of the state Legislature will be a critical one for the people of Washington. The state is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit, and now more than ever you need to be informed about the decisions being made on your behalf at the state capitol. However, because budgets are so tight right now, we as legislators have been asked to forgo our newsletter mailings to constituents like you. That means that e-newsletters like this will become infinitely more important in communicating to you what is happening in Olympia and in our own district.

Is this the first time you've read one of my e-mail updates? [Click here](#) to become part of my "Kitchen Cabinet" and receive these periodic newsletters.

I've been sending out these updates for over three years now, and the upcoming 2011 session will no doubt be a very important one for our state. **Sign up now to get updates about what's going on in Olympia.**

Stay informed, stay subscribed

Last week I was sent a letter by the Secretary of the Senate informing me that they would be **reducing overall costs by 6.3%** and detailing what services would be affected. The Facilities & Operations Committee (which is in charge of certain Senate expenditures) approved a package of reductions that will enable the Senate to achieve the \$1.6 million in savings that represents the Senate's share of the across the board cuts ordered by the governor. The most significant of these is the elimination of the production budget which I talked about earlier.

Additional cost-saving measures approved by the F&O Committee include holding **open job vacancies** that have occurred in recent months, eliminating the **stipend for interns**, reducing **session staffing levels**, and eliminating staff support for the **in-house cafeteria**. The letter went on

to thank staff for successfully holding down expenditures, and noted that the Senate will continue to carefully scrutinize all expenditure requests.



As a side note, if you have ideas for ways the state can save money you can submit them anonymously at

<http://senatewmleadership.leg.wa.gov>. Your idea submissions will be thoughtfully considered by senators and staff who are directly responsible for crafting the state's budget, and may end up becoming a bill this session, or perhaps even a law.

I'd like to reiterate how important it will be for you to **subscribe to these e-mail updates** so you can continue to be informed about not only the decisions being made in Olympia that directly affect you, but other events of interest in our district. During the legislative session, I send out these Kitchen Cabinet updates every week to keep you up to date on the issues, specific bills and other items that you may not read about in the newspaper. Now that it's clear that I won't be able to mail a legislative update to your home two or three times a year, I encourage you to join my Kitchen Cabinet to have better access to your state government and a more productive, two-way dialogue with me.

If you'd like to take a look at **past Kitchen Cabinet updates**, [please do so by visiting my website](#).

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at

www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428**.



- Legislative E-mail address: **carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov**

- Home E-mail address: mcarrell@hotmail.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a small dot above the 'i'.

Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator